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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/713,519	11/14/2003	Robert E. Platt	1522-K-CONT	9978

27542 7590 03/19/2004

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EXAMINER

MACARTHUR, VICTOR L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

DATE MAILED: 03/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/713,519

Applicant(s)

PLATT, ROBERT E.

Examiner

Victor MacArthur

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/14/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

This application lacks the necessary reference to the prior application. A statement reading, "This is a continuation of Application No. 10/056,719 filed 01/24/2002." should be entered following the title of the invention or as the first sentence of the specification. Also, the current status (i.e. as U.S. Patent 6,698,726) of all nonprovisional parent applications referenced should be included.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ooi U.S. Patent 5026028.

Claim 1. Ooi discloses (fig. 1) a rail clip for attaching a rail to a post, the rail clip comprising: a bracket (2) adapted to be mounted on the post (1); a rail connector (20), a connector mechanism (4, 5, 12, 16, 22, 26) for securing the rail connector and bracket together, the connector mechanism comprising: a first mechanism (4, 5, 22, 26) that allows the rail connector and bracket to be arcuately adjusted relative to each other but does not allow axial or lateral withdrawal of the rail connector from the bracket, and a second mechanism (12, 16) that locks the rail connector and bracket together so that substantially no additional (i.e. in addition to

Art Unit: 3679

rotation) relative movement can occur between the rail connector and the bracket; and a rail receiving receptacle (portion of 20 receiving 10) formed on the rail connector, the rail receiving receptacle receiving an end of the rail (10) therein; whereby adjustment of the rail connector relative to the bracket varies the angle of the rail receiving receptacle relative to the bracket.

Claim 2. Ooi discloses that the rail connector slidably engages the bracket and that the position of the rail connector is adjusted by sliding the rail connector relative to the bracket.

Note that rotation of 20 relative to 2 necessarily requires some sliding contact between parts.

Claim 3. Ooi discloses that the first mechanism comprises: a first groove (24, as best seen in fig.5) formed in one of the rail connector and the bracket; and a boss (4) formed in the other of the rail connector and the bracket, whereby the boss and groove interlock with each other and allow sliding arcuate movement between the rail connector and bracket, while substantially preventing the axial or lateral separation of the rail connector from the bracket.

Claim 4. Ooi discloses that the second mechanism comprises at least one fastener (16) that fixably connects the bracket and rail connector together.

Claim 5. Ooi discloses that the rail connector includes a rear wall (25) and the rail-receiving receptacle extends outwardly from the rear wall.

Claim 6. Ooi discloses that the rear wall is concave in shape and projects partially into the rail-receiving receptacle.

Claim 7. Ooi discloses that the rail receiving receptacle has an upper wall (top wall of 20), a lower wall (lower walls of 20, as best seen in fig.4) and two side walls (22); and the side walls have an interior face, an exterior face and front (opposite 26) and back (26) edges, and the

Art Unit: 3679

side walls extend a short distance beyond the rear wall thereby forming a lip (between 26 and 25) between the back edge and the rear wall (25).

Claim 8. Ooi discloses that the back edges (26) of the sidewalls are concave in shape.

Claim 9. Ooi discloses that the back edges of the sidewalls are adapted to be complementarily shaped with the bracket.

Claim 10. Ooi discloses that the lip further includes a ridge (ridge portion of 26), the ridge running along the back edge of the sidewall.

Claim 11. Ooi discloses that the bracket defines a first groove (5) and the ridge of the rail connector interlocks (via 16) with the first groove so as to allow sliding engagement between the bracket and rail connector; the ridge and first groove comprising the first mechanism to secure the bracket and rail connector together.

Claim 12. Ooi discloses that the bracket has a rear surface (portion of 2 contacting 1) and the rear surface is substantially flat and is adapted to abut a substantially flat surface on the post.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Referring to rail clips:

Heinz U.S. Patent 4923176

Carlson U.S. Patent 4621782

Knoll U.S. Patent 4415136

Collier U.S. Patent 2922609

Art Unit: 3679

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor MacArthur whose telephone number is (703) 305-5701.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne can be reached on (703) 308-1159. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.



VLM
March 11, 2004



Lynne H. Browne
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 3600